

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
MINAKO KATO ) : Examiner: B. Menberu  
Application No.: 10/656,103 ) : Group Art Unit: 2625  
Filed: September 8, 2003 ) : Confirmation No.: 7041  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD ) : March 19, 2009  
AND IMAGE OUTPUT SYSTEM )

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and in response to the final Office Action dated December 19, 2008, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows: